

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1 and 12-22 are pending. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended.

Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

**A. OBJECTION TO THE DRAWINGS**

This objection is respectfully traversed, especially as claim 1 has been amended to remove the objectionable language.

**B. § 112 REJECTION**

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection as the Office Action provides no specifics as to why the claims are allegedly unclear. In any event, claim 1 is amended herein in a manner that even more clearly satisfies the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112.

**C. § 103 REJECTION – HIUGA, NAKAMARU, DEBNAM, PICONE**

Claims 1 and 12-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hiuga (JP 59-212508) in view of Nakamaru (U.S. Patent No. 5,732,322), and further in view of Debnam (U.S. Patent No. 5,927,862) and Picone (U.S. Patent No. 6,250,815).

The combination of the bush bearing and the aluminum-made housing recited in amended claim 1 includes a bush bearing having a tapered surface and one annular axial end face which consist of an exposed surface of the copper coating layer, the outer peripheral edge of the one

annular axial end face having a smaller diameter than a diameter of a hole of the aluminum-made housing in which the bush bearing is press fitted, so that claim 1 is capable of providing the combination which makes it possible to eliminate the occurrence of dust (e.g., metal powder dust, particularly aluminum chips) at the time of the press fitting into the housing hole, which makes it possible to easily perform the press fitting without crushing the open end and the like of the hole to be press fitted into, and which makes it possible to ensure the roundness of the inner peripheral surface even after the press fitting.

The Office Action states that Nakamaru teaches a back palate entirely coated with copper. Nakamaru discloses that "these steel strips may be copper-plated, or tin-plated, if required, in order to improve the corrosion resistance thereof."

However, Nakamaru does not disclose or suggest the tapered surface which is coated by the copper layer in order to eliminate the occurrence of dust at the time of the press fitting into the housing hole of the aluminum-made housing, in which copper materials have similar hardness to that of aluminum materials and have desirable ductility and malleability.

Neither Hiuga nor Sakamaki discloses the combination in which the cylindrical surface, the tapered surface and the one annular end face are constituted by an exposed surface of the copper coating layer, the outer peripheral edge of the annular end face having the smaller diameter than the diameter of the hole of the aluminum-made housing in which the bush bearing is press fitted.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all the claims are patentable and that the entire application is in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, in the fee(s) filed, or asserted to be filed, or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Account No. 14-1140 under Order No. PTB-1207-133.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable to place the application in better condition for allowance, he is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

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